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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1896.

CONTENTS :

<i>A Central Wisconsin Baselevel:</i> C. R. VAN HISE...	57
<i>Decimal Numeration in the United States:</i> E. E. SLOSSON.....	59
<i>The Use of the Hair Hygrometer:</i> C. C. TROWBRIDGE.....	62
<i>Instruction in Natural History in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris:</i> CHARLES EARLE.....	65
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i>	
<i>The Iron Age in America; On Endo-Cannibalism:</i> D. G. BRINTON.....	67
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i>	
<i>Lord Kelvin; The Royal Geographical Society; Tidal Waves in the Pacific; Protective Sounds and Colors; Neurologic Nomenclature; Government Control of Printing Offices in Germany; General</i>	68
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	76
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Remarks on Prof. W. S. Franklin's Review and the Note Signed 'M.':</i> FRANK H. BIGELOW.....	76
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i>	
<i>A General Handbook of Butterflies:</i> SAMUEL H. SCUDDER. <i>The University Geological Survey of Kansas:</i> CHARLES S. PROSSER	81
<i>Scientific Journals:—</i>	
<i>The Journal of Comparative Neurology.....</i>	83
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences:</i> EDW. J. NOLAN.....	83
<i>New Books.....</i>	84

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A CENTRAL WISCONSIN BASELEVEL.

THE crystalline rocks of central Wisconsin north of the Potsdam sandstone, in the district including Grand Rapids, Stevens Point, Mosinee, Wausau, Marshfield, Merrill, and other towns, are of a very complex character.* In the southern part of the district is found a large area of the typical rocks of the Archean. North of this is an area composed of sedimentary and igneous rocks belonging to the Huronian. The igneous rocks have the greatest variety, including plutonic and volcanic varieties, as well as basic, acid, and intermediate facies. The whole region is one of intense folding and metamorphism. The schistosity of the rocks is at most places nearly vertical, and the beds of quartzite on Big Rib and Mosinee hills are on end.

Notwithstanding the complicated folding and great variety of rocks, resulting in different resisting powers, there is in this district as nearly perfect a baseleveled plain as it has been my good fortune to see. One of the most convenient localities in which to see this plain is near Mosinee. Following the wagon road which is east of the Wisconsin river a short distance south, so as to get above the valley of the Wisconsin, an almost perfect plain is seen to the northwest, west, south and east, large areas of which are but little dissected by any of

* See Geology of Wisconsin, Vol. IV., pp. 623-714; also Pl. I., Geol. Atlas of Wis.